

# SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the ) APPLICATION NO. BR-366  
Prescription of Reasonable )  
Rates and Charges for Motor )  
Carriers Passengers and ) GRANTED AS AMENDED  
Property for Hire subject to )  
the Provisions of Neb. Rev. )  
Stat. (Reissue 2003), Chapter )  
75, Articles 1 and 3. ) ENTERED: SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

BY THE COMMISSION:

## OPININON AND FINDINGS

On April 20, 2010, Caring People Sudan, Omaha, Nebraska, filed an application for authority to amend rates for its use in its operations as follows:

Description	Proposed	
	One Way	Round Trip
Passenger within City limit	\$18.50	\$22.50
Additional stops within city limit	\$5.00 (per a stop)	
Additional person for escort of		
Passenger	\$ 5.50	\$ 7.50
Waiting time rates	\$ 5.00 (1/2 hr)	
Weekends/After Hours	\$27.50	\$35.50
Holidays		\$45.00

### Note:

For all transportation that generates from Omaha to Lincoln we charge \$75.00 per one way and \$150.00 per round trip. Transportation that generates from Omaha to Fremont, Nebraska City and Blair we charge \$75.00 per one way trip and \$100.00 for round trip.

The application was published on June 8, 2010, in the Daily Record. No protests to the application were received by the Commission.

Applicant is a certificated common carrier which holds Certificate Number B-1714. The certificate allows the transportation of passengers and their baggage by contract by van for Employment First clients between points in Douglas and Sarpy counties, and between points in said counties, where public transportation is not available due

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to bus line restrictions. HHS designation: Yes. Restricted against the transportation of railroad train crews. The certificate also has Supplement 1, permitting the transportation of passengers and their baggage by van for the Nebraska Department of health and Human Services clients between points in Douglas and Sarpy counties, and between points in said county, on the one hand and, on the other hand, points in Nebraska over irregular routes. HHS Designation: Yes. RESTRICTION: The transportation of railroad train crews and their baggage is not authorized.

The Applicant received authority to operate from the Commission under Certificate No. B-1714 on October 29, 2008. The Applicant established its rates for use in this certificate on March 10, 2009. This is its first application to amend its rates.

The Applicant represents to the Commission that the proposed rates are based upon an increase in expenses that it has incurred since the inception of its rates in March of 2009. According to documentation provided to the Commission in support of the application, the Applicant has experienced increases in expenses in many areas. Commercial insurance has increased approximately thirty percent in 2010 compared to 2009. The Applicant also cited increases of twenty-five percent in maintenance of its vehicle fleet. The Applicant further cites that gasoline costs have increased over this time period as well.

The proposed rate increases include no change in the additional passenger charge or the hourly waiting time, a fourteen percent increase in the weekend/after hours charge, a thirty-six percent increase in the regular passenger round trip charge, a forty-five percent increase in the one-way regular passenger charge, and a forty-eight percent increase in the one-way passenger charge.

After consultation with Commission staff, the Applicant amended the proposed rate structure. The Applicant proposed to reduce the request for the holiday charge to equal that of the after hours/weekend charge, an increase of fourteen percent. The Applicant also proposed that the one-way passenger trip charge be set by the Commission at \$16.50, or a thirty-two percent increase reduced from forty-eight percent increase initially proposed. These

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amendments bring the proposed increases more in line with the cost increases experienced by the Applicant while keeping the rates competitive with other similar services.

The charges that the applicant proposes for trips to Lincoln and to Fremont are also reasonable. They are new charges instituted by the carrier and are competitive with those of other carriers.

The Commission also notes that the Applicant is a contract carrier with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as well as Employment First in Omaha. The rates that the Applicant charges are used for service not to the general public but only under contract with the said contractors. The rates operate as a ceiling for its contracts with the Department as under state law the Applicant can contract at a rate under the public rate with a governmental entity such as the Department.

The proposed increases as amended are in line with the increases in expenses that the applicant has experienced. The Commission would request that the Applicant apply to the Commission more frequently as needed so as to prevent the necessity of larger increases as opposed to smaller, more timely increases.

The Commission finds that the rates as proposed and amended are competitive with rates charged by similar companies providing similar services. The Commission finds that the rates as amended are reasonable and should be approved.

Upon consideration of the application and being fully advised in the premises, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the application should be granted effective September 17, 2010.

## ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that effective September 17, 2010 Caring People Sudan, Omaha, Nebraska, be, and it is hereby, authorized to establish rates for its use as follows:

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Description	One Way	Round Trip
Passenger within City limit	\$16.50	\$22.50
Additional stops within city limit	\$5.00 (per a stop)	
Additional person for escort of Passenger	\$ 5.50	\$ 7.50
Waiting time rates	\$ 5.00 (1/2 hr)	
Weekends/Holidays/After Hours	\$27.50	\$35.50

**Note:**

For all transportation that generates from Omaha to Lincoln we charge \$75.00 per one way and \$150.00 per round trip. Transportation that generates from Omaha to Fremont, Nebraska City and Blair we charge \$75.00 per one way trip and \$100.00 for round trip.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service that notice of this amendment to their rates be conspicuously displayed within each vehicle.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2010.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

*[Signature: Frank E. Landis]*

*[Signature: Gerald L. Vap]*

*[Signature: Tim Scham]*

Chairman *[Signature: Gerald L. Vap]*

ATTEST: *[Signature: Tim Scham]*

Executive Director

//s// Frank E. Landis  
//s// Gerald L. Vap